

Following Jesus: Week 3

Jan. 26, 2020

Matthew 11:25-30

Warming Up

1. Share with the group some of the rules you had growing up (either at home or at school), that you hated. Why, in your mind, were they unnecessary, silly, distasteful etc.? How was your home growing up---strict and rigid with rules? Loose and free? How has that impacted how you live your life as an adult? How has it impacted your parenting? How have you helped your kids see that obeying you CAN bring joy and freedom?

Knowing the Gospel...

2. Who are the wise and understanding? Why has God “hidden” the things of the kingdom from the “wise and understanding”? What place does wisdom and intelligence have in the things of faith?

3. Check out Matthew 18:1-4 and Mark 10:15. What is Jesus’ point? How does his point conflict with the Pharisees’ (and even the disciples) approach to the kingdom of Heaven?

4. Galatians 1:6-9 and Galatians 3:1-14. Summarize what you think is going on with the Galatians in these passages. How is this similar to what Jesus is speaking out against in Matt. 11? How do we see this tendency creep into our churches and our lives today?

Living the Gospel...

5. Jesus says we should take his yoke upon us and learn from him. How do we learn from him (v.29)? (John 13:15, 1 Peter 2:21, 1 John 2:6). What do you think are

some of the best ways to learn to live as Jesus lived? What specific steps are you taking in your life to “learn from him”?

6. Jesus says that following him brings rest (v.29-30). How have you seen that happen in your life? In others’ lives? Read 1 John 5:1-5. Verse 3 states that following God’s commands are not burdensome. How have you seen God’s commands bring you (or someone else) great joy and freedom?

7. Check out Ps. 19:7-11. What are some of the characteristics of God’s revelation to man, in particular, his law revealed in the Mosaic covenant? What are some of the effects listed (v.7-9)? What are some of the benefits (v.10-11)? How do we know if we are passionately desiring God’s commands and obedience to them (v.10, 1 Jn. 5:3)?

Telling the Gospel...

8. How have you (can you) help a non-Christian see the difference between religion and following Jesus? How can we sometimes blur the distinction by the way we talk? Live?

9. Take up the challenge to pray for someone in your life that you know is apathetic or even antagonistic towards Jesus. Take up the stiffer challenge to tell them you love them and are praying for them.

Next Week:

Matthew 14:22-23